

26 September 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

SUBJECT : Land Mines and Booby Traps

1. Attached is a private note [redacted] based on his conversations with his contacts in the economic policy field, principally [redacted]. It outlines current U.S. strategy for lowering oil prices; but its real message is that such a strategy does not really exist or, at least, has not yet been definitively articulated by anyone (so far as we are able to ascertain).

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2. It would appear that, once again, the U.S. is in the position of being dissatisfied with the current state of affairs and anxious for "improvement" but that our own government has not yet translated essentially adjectival desires into concrete objectives statable in nouns or simple action verbs. It is very difficult for this government to move from a perception of what it does not like to a concept of what it wants, in concrete terms, or just how it proposes to go about attaining its concrete desires.

3. Given the above, you are going to have an interesting and rather sporty course. It is not easy to advance a strategy which has not yet been developed. [redacted] note gives the best background guidance obtainable but, given the nature of the problem, that guidance is not terribly enlightening or helpful. You will still be in the position, however, of having your every word and gesture carefully scrutinized for hidden meaning, with as much attention being paid to what you do not say or do as to what you do say or do. You may be able to get more enlightenment and guidance from the President or Henry, but I am afraid the attached represents the best we are able to give you.

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[redacted]

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George A. Carver, Jr.
Deputy for National Intelligence Officers

Attachment

E2 IMPDET

cc: NIO/Economics

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